

Fort Hall Fire District

Profile of the District:

The Fort Hall Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. Fort Hall is located on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation between Pocatello and Blackfoot. The topography is widely varied with flat dry lands suitable for ranching and farming to rugged mountainous areas in the Arbon Valley and Ross Fork areas. This District is unique in that the Fort Hall Indian Reservation is governed by the tribal government of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes.

Organizational Structure

The Fort Hall Fire District reports to the Tribal Business Council and Executive Director. The organizational structure consists of one fire chief, a wild land fire officer, a secretary, one assistant chief, three captains (EMS, Prevention and Training), and 15 firefighter/EMT's.

Facilities:

The District has one fire station with nine bays. The District is working to build a new station at this time to be able to house all equipment and crews under one roof. Presently, District facilities are made up of several metal buildings and trailers for crew quarters and office space.

Response Area:

The Fort Hall Fire District provides fire protection for agricultural, rangelands, forest, wild land urban interface, residential, business, high risk and high tech. The District serves 600 square miles.

Budget and Funding:

The District has experienced budget increases over the last five years and approximately 95% of the funding comes from taxes. The remaining budget funding comes from a Bureau of Indian Affairs wild land firefighting contract and a small portion from grants.

Grants:

Grant funds have been received from the State IDS and EMS, from the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, from INEEL and from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The District is familiar with the National Fire Plan and hopes to seek more grants funding in the future.

Records Management:

The District does maintain a computerized records management system. All District operations are computerized and it utilizes the Firehouse and NIFIRS software.

Firefighting Program:

The District covers the Fort Hall Indian Reservation adjacent to Bingham, Bannock and Power Counties. There are 21 personnel within the firefighting program that are all paid staff. Fire response includes protection for structures, wild land suppression, EMS, HazMat, rescue and terrorist threat. The District responds to approximately 489 fire-related incidents annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including ICS, water supply, initial attack, rapid entry team and ventilation. The District does have a high risk for wild land urban interface fires and terrorist attack; but it does have 21 firefighters trained in wild land suppression. The District has some adequate and reliable water sources. The primary water supply sources include water mains, hydrants and area bodies of water.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Station, 9 Bays• Paid Personnel• 2,250 Structural/1,750 Wild Land Total GPM Capacity• Computerized Record Keeping System• Fire Response: Structural, Wild Lands, Rangeland, Forest, Agricultural, Residential & Business• 2 Structural; 3 Structural/Wild Land; & 4 Wild Land Vehicles• Grid Access Address System Developed; Not Yet Implemented• Meets NFPA Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shift Staffing to Improve Coverage• New Fire Station• 4x4 Ambulance• Substations in Areas of High Call Volume• Water Supply Improvements; System Infrastructure Improvements• Water Tender• Grants for One-time Purchases• Grant Administrator• Assistance with Grant Writing• Access to Grants – Library• Records Management/Computer Hardware & Software Training• Acquire SCBA Testing System

Hazardous Materials Program:

The Fort Hall Fire District does have a HazMat response team. The District has full Level "A" training and equipment in place. Mutual aid agreements are in place with the BLM, Forest Service, INEEL, the Idaho Department of Lands, the cities of Chubbuck and Blackfoot; and Power County.

EMS Program:

The District does provide EMS services. It has personnel trained in EMT Basic and EMT Advanced-Intermediate.

EMS Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMT Intermediate and Advanced Trained Personnel• 2 Type III QRU Units• Rescue Truck with Extrication Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional Personnel Trained• Heavier Rescue Unit• 4x4 Ambulance

Training and Certification:

The District does not have a set number of minimum requirements for training and certification. It has an ongoing training program it maintains. The District's training programs meet some of the NFPA, NWCG standards; and it does utilize the IFSA training program.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training: Structural Protection, Wildfire Suppression, EMS, HazMat, Rescue, Ropes, High Angle Rescue• Written Standard Operating Procedures• IFSTA Training Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wild Lands 300 Series Training• Training Facility• Power Point Program

Communications:

Communication for Fort Hall is dispatched out of the Fort Hall Police dispatch center. The District does have sufficient radio communication capacity. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held units. All radios are multi-frequency capable but some radio communications are inadequate with other entities.

Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to Remote Alarm Calls• Portable Radios• All Vehicles Radio Equipped	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved Dispatch Center with Added Personnel• Implement Grid Mapping System

Prevention and Inspection:

The District does not administer and enforce Fire Code regulations. Fire cause and origin investigations are conducted, however.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire Cause and Origin Investigations Conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Person Dedicated to Inspections Only• Adoption of International Fire Codes

Public Education:

The District does conduct public education programs for wild land fires, structural fires, home safety and drug labs. It also regularly participates in public outreach at fairs, schools, public events and fire station activities.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Education Programs• Outreach Education and Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated Person to Public Educational Programs